

1 ABSTRACT  
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3 A surgical dissector comprising an elongate shaft having a proximal end and a  
4 distal end. A blunt dissection tip is positioned on the distal end of the elongate shaft.  
5 A light source emits a diffuse visible energy, such as white light, from the blunt tip.  
6 The shaft may take a variety of shapes, including being rigid, flexible, malleable,  
7 straight, bent, curved, articulated, and/or segmented. In addition, the shaft may  
8 include one or more functional components. The dissector can be used to locate the  
9 dissector tip by observing the visible energy passing through tissue. In addition, the  
10 visible energy passing through tissue may be used to differentiate tissue.

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